

My COSTEP experience this summer in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma was wonderful. I have always wanted to use my engineering expertise to help people in a meaningful way. As a COSTEP Engineer, I was able to do that in the Indian Health Service. I had many opportunities to see the impact of my work on healthcare facilities, and in turn, patients.

My goal for the summer was to gain valuable hands-on experience that is not offered in school. I enjoyed seeing and exploring mechanical systems that I have read about in textbooks. I was able to gain an appreciation for Facility Managers and Facility Engineers from spending time at several hospitals and health centers. They face the challenge to prevent broken equipment, manage staff, please administrators, and fix problems when they do arise. Through working with maintenance staff, I learned how facilities are maintained at the basic level.



I was also given other responsibilities like creating a streamlined paperwork process for Facility Managers, performing preventive maintenance tasks, studying an air conditioning system design and collecting data from facilities. My experience this summer was very rewarding due to the vast array of projects I was able to work on.

I highly recommend the COSTEP program for students who are interested in gaining hands-on experience in their field, having fun, and working to better peoples' lives. My time has been well-spent during my COSTEP assignment and I am seriously considering spending my career in the USPHS Commissioned Corps.

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